

1912 Dates J-BK

Feb. 1871

(1797-1888) WILLIAM I      King of Prussia &

Emperor of Germany. Born at Berlin, son of Frederick Wilhelm III of Prussia. Took part in campaign against Napoleon I (1814-1815), and on the accession of his brother, Frederick Wilhelm IV to the Prussian throne (1840), he became governor of Pomerania. His Absolutist attitude at the time of the revolution in Berlin (1848) made it necessary for him to seek refuge in England; but he soon returned, suppressed the revolution in BADEN (1849)

and in 1858 was appointed regent. This position he held until his brother's death in 1861, when he was crowned King of Prussia. In the war of 1866 which proved so humiliating to Austria, William took the field as commander in chief of the Prussian Army. He also led the German forces in the war with the French (1870-1871) and received the capitulation of Paris in February 1871. His success led the German states to offer him the crown which he accepted. He was proclaimed emperor at VERSAILLES, Jan. 8, 1871

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